COLLECTOR'S CORNER #86 JUNE 4, 1976
ROBERT L. REDEEN

SMALL WORLD
(VOICED PIECE, INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: AND NOW, COLLECTOR'S CORNER, AND NOTES OF INTEREST FOR VOA LISTENERS WHO COLLECT THINGS... WHETHER THEY BE STAMPS OR COINS, SNUFF BOTTLES OR OLD AUTOS, OR JUST BALLS OF STRING. TODAY, ROBERT L. REDEEN'S REPORT FROM NEW YORK ON A HOBBY WHERE THE IDEA IS... THE SMALLER THE BETTER.

VOICE: ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE INCREASING INTEREST IN MINIATURES, CERTAINLY IN NEW YORK CITY, IS A DYNAMIC YOUNG WOMAN NAMED KATHRYN FALK, WHO IS PROPRIETOR OF THE MINI MUNDUS SHOP AND THE MINI MUNDUS LUMBERYARD. THE ITEMS SHE SELLS ARE ONE-TWELFTH THE SIZE OF THOSE OFFERED FOR SALE IN THE WORLD THAT MOST OF US LIVE IN.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- FALK

"WE OFFER EVERYTHING IN A ONE-INCH (25 MILIMETER) TO ONE-FOOT (THIRTY CENTIMETER) SCALE THAT YOU CAN FIND IN YOUR REAL LIFE. WE HAVE STOVES FOR KITCHENS. WE HAVE COMPLETE BATHROOM SETS. WE HAVE LITTLE PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS. JUST ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE. AND IF WE DON'T HAVE IT, WE HAVE THE MATERIAL SO YOU CAN MAKE IT."

VOICE: CUSTOMERS WHO BUY MINIATURES USUALLY SAY THEY'RE DOING IT FOR THEIR CHILDREN. BUT IN EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE CASES SAYS MISS FALK, IT'S FOR THEMSELVES.

GEOFFREY WHEELER, A MAGAZINE EDITOR IN THE HOBBY FIELD, ESTIMATES THE NUMBER OF COMPANIES MANUFACTURING MINIATURES NOW IS MORE THAN A HUNDRED.

VOICE: (CONT'D) MISS FALK FINDS MUCH OF HER MATERIAL OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- FALK

"MOST OF THE GREAT VOLUME MINIATURES ARE COMING FROM MEXICO AND TAIWAN BECAUSE THEY'RE USED TO WORKING WITH SMALL THINGS. BUT PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY ARE DOING QUITE A BIT BY HAND. WE HAVE PERHAPS ABOUT TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR US."

VOICE: AMONG HER DOMESTIC CRAFT-WORKERS ARE PLUMBERS, ELECTRICIAN AND PLASTERERS. IF SOMEONE WANTS A PATCHWORK QUILT FOR A DOLLHOUSE, JUDY BAKER, A WEAVER, MAKES IT OUT OF RIBBONS AND LACE. FOR A PERIOD HOUSE TINY CANDLES ARE CREATED FOR TABLETOPS BY BARBARA HACKNEY WHILE EDWARD ACEVADO HAND-CARVES COPIES OF ANTIQUE FURNITURE. MAGAZINE EDITOR WHEELER EXPLAINS THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF MINIATURES: THOSE USED FOR DECORATION AND THOSE ARRANGED IN SHADOW BOXES OR DOLL HOUSES. AND IT'S THE SECOND CATEGORY THAT'S CAUSING A MINOR BUSINESS BOOM TODAY.

MISS FALK HAS HER OWN IDEAS ABOUT THE APPEAL OF MINIATURIZATION.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- FALK

"THERE'S SOMETHING FASCINATING ABOUT THESE ITEMS BEING SMALL AND REPRESENTING LARGE OBJECTS. IN THIS DAY AND AGE I THINK PEOPLE LIKE CONTROLLING SOMETHING. AND I FIND SO MANY PEOPLE TOLD ME THEY GO HOME AND THEY MOVE THEIR LITTLE PIECES OF FURNITURE AROUND LIKE THEY MIGHT MOVE AROUND THEIR COUCH OR THEIR CHAIRS IN THEIR OWN APARTMENT OR HOUSE. IT'S ALMOST LIKE THERAPY."

VOICE: DOLLHOUSES, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME. BUT IT'S IN JUST THE PAST FEW YEARS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A FLOOD OF NEW IDEAS ON HOW THEY SHOULD BE FURNISHED.

EVEN IF YOU DON'T BUY THE WORK OF THIS NEW CLASS OF HAND CRAFTERS AND PREFER TO MAKE YOUR OWN, KATHRYN FALK STILL SEEKS YOUR BUSINESS. SHE SELLS TINY TOOLS THAT CAN BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE.

THERE'S A FOUR-THOUSAND MEMBER NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINIATURE ENTHUSIASTS AND IT'S PLANNING ITS FIRST EASTERN REGIONAL HOUSE PARTY SOON IN NEW JERSEY WITH LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS. THOSE WHO ATTEND CAN LEARN AMONG OTHER THINGS HOW TO PLAN A LIBRARY OF ONE INCH (25 MILLIMETER) BOOKS, HOW TO PREPARE MINIATURE GOURMET FOODS AND HOW TO PUT UP A HUNDRED VARIETIES OF MINI-WALLPAPER.

AND HOW ABOUT THESE OTHER ITEMS AVAILABLE ALREADY MADE AT MINI MUNDUS: MINIATURE BUTTERFLY CASES, SHOE TREES AND MOUSETRAPS. THE SHOP EVEN OFFERS TINY DOLLHOUSES FOR DOLLHOUSES.

ANNCR: SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL AND FUN. YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO <u>COLLECTOR'S CORNER</u>, THE WEEKLY PROGRAM FOR VOA LISTENERS WHO COLLECT THINGS... FROM STAMPS AND COINS TO BALLS OF STRING. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT-------- (AT THIS TIME) FOR ANOTHER LOOK INTO THE <u>COLLECTOR'S CORNER</u>. THIS IS ----------.

-0- WJL/CAK